

CURSORY
OBSERVATIONS
ON
or
IRELAND.

BY A MEMBER OF THE
DUBLIN SOCIETY.

DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY T. T. FAULKNER, PARLIAMENT-
STREET. 1779.



THE HISTORY OF
THE BRITISH MUSEUM

BY J. H. D.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY

1870

P R E F A C E.

FROM a sincere Attachment to Ireland, and a partial Regard towards her Inhabitants, the Author of the following Sheets is induced to offer a few cursory Considerations with Respect to her present Situation, and to endeavour to assign the Causes which have occasioned her late, and present Distress.—He will likewise presume to make some Observations respecting her Commerce, and the Advantages which she would derive from a farther Extention and Encouragement of Agriculture, and from the Exportation of Grain.—Happy shall he be, if it should excite some more able Advocate to expatiate upon a Subject of such Importance, whose Power and Abilities may effectually produce unto her those Benefits, which may be adequate to his most sanguine wishes.

IT is not improbable but many respectable Individuals may differ with him in Opinion, with Regard to the Stuation of her lower Order of People; but they will pardon his giving a Picture of what he has been an Eye-Witness to:—allowing the Distress to be local, or confined to particular Provinces, yet there is no Part of the Community which should groan under insupportable Misery, who are not entitled to Redress; and as there are none of that Class equal to remonstrating, or representing their own Grievances, Humanity alone has induced him to undertake the Task for them.

THE STATE
 OF THE
 POOR PEASANT.

IF we see the Poor of a Country cruel, tumultuous, and dissatisfied; and such Country depopulating by constant Emigrations, produced from Misery and Despair; it behoveth us, in Compassion to our Fellow-Creature, to investigate and make known the real Cause.

IT is because the luxurious Landlord, or his Substitute, the Land Huckster, has let his Land at too high a Price, and draws from the Hand of the poor Peasant, the Means which are requisite to reproduce Riches; and that his Fund, exhausted in its Source, cannot return to the Bowels of the Earth, in Order

to render an adequate, and competent Return. It is because the miserable Wretchedness of the poor Peasant will not admit of his exercising his Functions——His Poverty produceth his Indolence, for he has not the Means which would enable, or excite him, to become industrious.

CAST your Eye on this Country, and you will behold the Peasant obliged to stifle his Industry——he trembles at the Idea of ameliorating or improving his Land, for his Riches (as in Barbary) would become his Crime——as he is only Tenant on Courtesy, the Instant he could afford a Morsel of Bread to his miserable Family, his Land would be raised upon him, and he would be reduced to his hereditary Beggary; where the merciless Hand of the unfeeling Tythe-Jobber, or the ravenous Paw of the Hearth-Money Collector, would without Remorse, strip him of the only Trifles which Indigence leaves to Necessity——even his Bed of Straw from under

under his poor Wife, at the Time she was in Agony, and bringing a Citizen into the World ; or the Pot from his Fire, which was preparing Food for his starving Babes—Are then the Inhabitants of the Country to be considered as Enemies of the State ? Forbid it Heaven ! We should be sorry there could be found any human Being of so cruel, and contracted a Way of thinking, as to assert it to be sound Policy, that the Peasant should be miserable, and deprived of the common Necessaries of Life ; and that Discouragement and Despair excited the human Race more to Industry, than Ease, Comfort, and Liberty.

Is it not irreconcileable to common Sense, that the very Individuals who are the Cause of his Misery and Poverty, are so devoid of Humanity as to represent him destitute of Gratitude, lawless, and vindictive, when they themselves are the sole Cause of his appearing so ?

THE

The human Mind doth not become polished by Instinct — by Example and Tuition, it may be extended and moulded to Perfection.

To pay some Attention to the Morals and Manners of those poor people, would be the Means of soothing and softening their unbridled Passions, and far more Praise-worthy than loading them with severe and illiberal Invectives, as an Apology for unfeeling Inhumanity.

If a certain Order of People would pay an equal Attention unto them, to that which they *religiously* shew towards their Horses or their Hounds, those unhappy Wretches (who are scarcely considered as being of the human Race) would in Gratitude give them their Blessings, instead of their constant Execrations,—The before-mentioned Animals are pampered with clean Straw, and wholesome Oats and Oatmeal; and provided any Accident befalls them, or they have any Disease,

the

the Farrier or the Huntsman administers the Medicines necessary for their Preservation, or Recovery—Blush ye, who call yourselves Men, and are in Affluence, that Humanity doth not excite ye, to bestow an equal Charity and Benevolence towards your Fellow-Creatures—If this Kingdom should ever have the Misfortune to be invaded by a foreign Power, the Effects will be dreadful ; for we are afraid Thousands, and Tens of Thousands, would join any Enemy who should land on your Coast—not from a Spirit of Disaffection to Government, but in Hopes of ameliorating their Situation. The Miserable are partial to no Sovereign, but would enlist under any Banner, where there was a Chance, or Possibility, of attaining Comfort and Ease.

ALL Authors on Politicks agree, that a People who are poor and indigent, and have nothing to risque, and who can lose nothing, but may gain by Troubles, are the most inclined to Revolts and Rebel-

lions, and are less easy to govern than those under comfortable Circumstances.

KINGS, Princes, and Ministers, know ye, that Agriculture is the Basis of your Power; it is that, which creates and supports Fleets —— It is the sown Fields, like those of Cadmus, that give Birth to Armies, and lead to Victory. The great Sully, in Order to make France flourish, looked only for Labourers and Shepherds.—He encouraged those useful Men, and proposed Premiums for such as improved uncultivated Lands. He sent to foreign Countries, to search for People to fertilize the Earth.—It was his voice which called to France a great Part of the Eight Hundred Thousand Moors, which Superstition drove from Spain—By a wise Regulation, he even protected the Peasant against the Oppression of the Soldier—“ Soldiers and Labourers, (said he) from whence arise your Divisions—Should those who defend the Country, arm against those who

" who nourish it ? The Steel which is in
 " your Hand, whether it overthrows the
 " Batallions of your Enemies, or plows
 " and fertilizes the Earth, merits equally
 " the Homage of the Citizen."

ONE of his Maxims was, that Labour and Pasturage were the two Paps of a State——Such was the Basis and Principle of his Operations——He formed a great Number of useful Regulations to encourage Agriculture; but all had in View to procure Comfort and Ease to the poor Cultivator——What Honour would it reflect on an Age so enlightened as the present, if some Plan was devised, which would afford Relief to so numerous a Class of People, and who are of such essential Utility to the State.

ANCIENT Greece deified their first cultivators——It were much to be wished, that amongst us, they were nearly treated as Men——What ! Should any Part

of the human Race be useful, and destined to Misery——It is the Great, who should set the Example of Humanity towards them in every Kingdom; for their Virtues, as well as their Vices, operate on the Minds of Inferiors——It is well known, that the Labourer could subsist without the rich Man, but the rich Man could not subsist without the Labourer.

NOTWITHSTANDING our vaunted Pride, and boasted Perfection in Knowledge in Europe, we are far behind the Chinese in some particular Parts of the Science of Government——In China, it is well known that the Emperor, in Order to set an Example, and to impress a proper Respect amongst the Citizens for Labour, every Year, at a solemn Festival, holds the Plough in Presence of his People.

IN no Part, Agriculture is so much honoured——There are even Places of Mandarins reserved for some of the Peasants

sants who are most famous in that Art.

— In all Countries Men are the same. Their being better or worse, depends upon their Superiors * ; but before a Peasant can have a just Sense of Honor, he must enjoy the Comforts of Ease. —

AN Heart lingering with constant Poverty, can have no Sentiment superior to Misery.

If then the Peasantry of this Country are what they are represented by their Superiors, unto whom shall we attribute the real Cause of their being so ?

In short, until Means are devised which shall contribute towards making the lower Order of People happier, and more comfortable than they are at present, it will be impossible that this Kingdom

? Mankind are just as we would have them to be ; it is the Mode of Government which gives them a good, or evil Propensity. ABBE' RAYNAL.

(14)

Kingdom should arrive at any Degree
of Opulence or Happiness.

AGRICULTURE,

AND THE

Exportation of Grain.

THE Liberty of exporting every kind of Grain, is of such essential Benefit to a Country, that it is almost unnecessary to make Use of any Arguments to demonstrate its Utility—Every one must allow that the supplying of foreign Markets with any Commodities which are the Produce of your own Lands, brings Riches to a State—Independent of which, it causes Corn in particular to preserve a certain Price, which enables the Farmer to pay his Rent,—it excites Labour,—it encourages Agriculture, and consequently increases Population.

W₃

We wish to see this Kingdom arrive at such a State, that even larger Bounties may be given for the Exportation of Grain *, under such proper Restrictions, which may guard against the Inconveniences attending a Year of Scarcity—
 If we want Examples of the Benefits which arise to a Nation from such a Measure, many may be found, and none more striking than that of France—
 When the great Sully became Minister of that Kingdom, Agriculture had greatly declined, from the Civil Wars and Commotions ; but in a few Years, by his steady Support and Attention to that inexhaustible Mine, she became the Granary of Europe—She enjoyed that Advantage, during the Reigns of Henry the Fourth, Louis the Thirteenth, and Part of the Reign of Louis the Fourteenth, when the Abundance and high Price

* See the Bounties given by England in the Addenda.

Price of Corn supported the Riches of that Nation ; for the Price in those Times was often as high as 25 Livres and upwards per Setier of twelve Bushels, which brought annually a Sum into that Kingdom of near 1200 Millions of Livres.

THAT Source of Riches in later Days hath greatly decreased ;—but since the Cession of Canada to Great Britain, the French are again adopting Sully's Plan.

IN the Year 1661, Colbert, who favoured Manufactures, prohibited the Exportation of Grain, in Order that the Subsistence of Manufacturers should be at so low a Rate, that the Fabricks of France, by the moderate Price of Labour and Provisions, should be afforded cheaper than those of other Countries.

IT was not long before the dreadful Effects of that Project were felt. The Price

Price of Corn fell above Fifty per Cent.

—This naturally diminished Agriculture; for in bad Ground, the Produce of the Lands was not equal to the Expence of the Culture; and they consequently became un-tilled, and in a Manner abandoned—By Degrees the Country was neglected and forsaken, and France, which in the happy Æra before mentioned, annually produced 70 Millions of Sestiers of Corn, of late Years scarcely produced Forty.—England, before the Liberty of Exportation of Corn, was often obliged to purchase that Article from Foreigners, because the Produce of the Kingdom was not sufficient for the Support of her Inhabitants—She adopted Sully's Plan, nearly at the Period that it was renounced in France; and in a short Time, Agriculture made so rapid a Progress, that one good Harvest will enable her to provide for her own Necessities, and to supply most of the Countries of Europe.

IN 1689, she began to give Bounties upon the Exportation of Corn—This is possibly one of the principal Epochs of her Grandeur—It has been proved *, that the Produce from the Exportation of Corn, has amounted in four Years to near Seven Millions sterling : The sole reasonable Objection which can be made to this System, is the Apprehension of a Famine, in Years of Scarcity ; but it is found by Experience, that such Scarcity is infinitely more rare in those Countries where the Liberty of Exportation supports Agriculture—We shall give an Instance, as Proof of that Assertion.

IN France, in 1709, (a Year of Scarcity) the Setier of Corn sold for 100 Livres—In England it sold at the same Time at about the Value of 43 Livres—that is to say, at about double the ordinary Price in England, of those Times.

In

* Vide Addenda, for the Produce and Effects of that Bounty.

In the Famine of 1693 and 1694, the Price of Corn in France, was double the Price of what it was in England, although the Exportation of it had been allowed only four or five Years—These are Facts which are unanswerable—they are neither supposed nor exaggerated—Let Ireland profit by the Example. There may be Prejudices, which are useful to a State; but there are others which may prove its Ruin, from not knowing their Utility, and beneficial Tendency.

We at present give a Bounty for bringing Corn to the Capital—Possibly there never was a more advantageous, or judicious Plan devised for the Kingdom. It is well known what wonderful Effect it has had with Respect to Agriculture, by the immense Encræse of the Sum paid for that Bounty *; but when it produceth a Redundancy beyond what is ne-

D 2 necessary

* Vide Addenda, with Respect to that County.

cessary for your own Consumption, and no Exportation of that Article takes Place, we should begin to be alarmed; for like a River which overflows its natural Banks by sudden Floods, and carries Devastation with it to every Quarter where there is no Possibility of its subsiding, or throwing off its superfluous Inundation; in like Manner, such Redundancy of Corn must naturally reduce the Price to so low a Standard, that the Labourer must lose his Labour, the Farmer must lose his Time and Seed, and the Landlord, consequently, must lose his Rent; for if what is originally advanced on the Cultivation of Land, cannot be reimbursed by the Produce and Profit, this melancholy Result must naturally ensue. It is therefore worthy of the serious Attention of the Legislature, to give every Encouragement to that Branch, as it will keep up the Price of Grain, excite Cultivation, and produce every beneficial Consequence to the State; for every Barrel of Corn which you export

to a foreign Country, is causing that Country to pay a certain Tribute unto your own.

IT may be depended upon, if ever this Kingdom should be so infatuated to Manufactures, as to cause a Neglect and Decline of Agriculture, it will be productive, sooner or later, of the most dreadful Effects; particularly, if from any unforeseen Cause, there should be a Year of Scarcity——The more a Person will give himself Time to reflect, the more convincing Proofs will occur to him, that Agriculture is the most solid, and most substantial Support of a State ——It in a particular Degree contributes to Health, whilst many Manufactures are prejudicial to the Constitution; it is consequently obvious, how beneficial it must be to Population, from which Source all Nations derive their Strength and Opulence.

INDEED we need look no farther for Evidence

Evidence of the superior Advantage which Agriculture produceth to a Kingdom, to that of Manufactures, than the piteous and lamentable Situation of those poor People, whom we meet with every Hour in the Capital, soliciting the Charity and Benevolence of the Humane—Had those unhappy Men been employed in the Cultivation of Lands, they would not have been reduced to the humiliating and deplorable State of begging from Door to Door, to obtain Food for themselves and their Starving Families.

INSTEAD of being useful Members to Society, they are now become an involuntary Burthen to the Kingdom—Compassion calls upon us to pity and relieve them; more so, as their Poverty has not arisen from any criminal Cause, but from the unhappy and melancholy Distress of the Times.

To Universal Liberty, Freedom & Equality
To Universal Brotherhood.

MANUFACTURES.

BY what has been urged upon this Subject, it is by no Means meant that Manufactures should not be encouraged to a certain Degree—but Care should be taken that it is not at the Expence, nor by the Diminution of Agriculture.

ENGLAND might grant you Indulgencies, which in no Shape militate against the Interest of her own Kingdom, by giving you Branches of Manufactures which she has lost, from being undersold at foreign Markets by other Powers, particularly coarse Woollen Cloths, for the Turkey Trade, which Branch France has stolen from her—We are of a firm Opinion, that it is her Interest to do it, in Order to enable you chearfully to contribute your Mite towards her general Expenditure—She has had repeated Instan-

Instances of the Loyalty and Liberality of Ireland, and should give a parental Testimony and Acknowledgement that she is sensible of it, by granting every Encouragement she possibly can, to that Kingdom, which doth not affect, nor is materially detrimental to her own.

If Ireland should become opulent, England will reap the principal Advantage from it,—She would only be a Sort of Reservoir to relieve the Necessities of the latter, as her Specie would chiefly center in England,—for we believe we may venture to assert, that where there is one Englishman of Fortune who expends his Property in Ireland, there are some hundreds of Irish Gentlemen who expend their Estates in England.

IT is a narrow, and mistaken Policy, to deprive Ireland of the Power of underselling her common Enemy, in Branches of Commerce, which she has actually stolen from England—

LST

LET the Expedient be tried, and the Advantages will soon appear conspicuous — if any evil Tendency or bad Effects should arise from it, they are easily corrected : But let not the short-sighted Prejudices of pedling Corporations frustrate the Benefits which would derive to the British Empire in general——more might be said on this Subject, but we would wish to preserve a Moderation which should rather sooth, than excite Animosities betwixt People, whose Interests ought to be mutual——whose Prosperity or Declension ought to be conjoint ; and who ought to feel a cordial Sympathy from the Consequences and Effects which arise from each others Operations.——

BUT the Idea of establishing Manufactures in the Capital of a Kingdom is absurd in the highest Degree—Manufactures flourish from their Perfection and Cheapness, which naturally produce the Demand for them—it is therefore obvi-

E ouis

ous, they ought to be established in that Part of a State where Provisions, and every Article for the Support of the Manufacturer, is to be had at the lowest Rate; and where he is least likely to cultivate an Habit of Dissipation.

Those poor People, who are now starving in the Streets of Dublin, might still be of infinite Benefit to the Kingdom, if the Men of Fortune of the South of Ireland, would each send a certain Proportion of them to their respective Towns and Estates, and support and encourage them, until they had firmly established their different Fabricks; more particularly any Branch of Woollen Manufacture, as it appertains to, and is connected with, your Soil—— This Plan would be humane, and in Time would Produce a lasting Advantage to their respective Estates, and to the Kingdom in general.

TRADE and COMMERCE.

WE every Day hear People complain of the mistaken Policy of the Mother Country, in not granting an Extention of Trade and Commerce to this Kingdom. Let us consider, whether it would produce that real Benefit to the Nation, under her present Circumstances, which People in general imagine.

You have sufficient Sources for Opulence within your Power, if you will but avail yourselves of your advantageous Situation. Agriculture, and the Exportation of the Produce of your Lands, with the Fisheries on your Coast, if pursued with Energy, would, alone, cause you to be one of the most flourishing Kingdoms on Earth.

POSSIBLY it may be a mistaken Opinion, that this Kingdom would derive the Advantages suggested from a Liberty to extend her Commerce——It wants Wealth, which is the Soul of commercial Nations ; and unless you could bring to her Sea Ports some hundreds of Merchants of great Opulence from other Countries, we apprehend your Kingdom would derive little Benefit, even from an open Trade——Can it be expected that England, in her present State, would give you such Indulgencies as would cause a Migration of her rich commercial Subjects——

We believe it is obvious to every Individual, that the trifling Indulgencies given unto you by the British Legislature the last Session of Parliament, have not operated so as to produce the least beneficial Effects. The Reason is plain——The Passion for Trade is not so prevalent here as it is in England or Holland ; nor
is

is Trade regarded so honourable or respectable as in those Countries, where Individuals continue in Business after being possessed of immense Fortunes— People in Ireland, after having acquired a few Thousands by any particular Branch of Trade, retire from it, as thinking it a Sort of Reflection upon them, or a Disgrace to them.—

This arises from a mistaken Pride, which will ever be prejudicial to a Nation so adapted for Commerce as Ireland is. In England there are many Sons of the noble Families in Trade, who are highly respected, and are by no Means held in less Estimation than if they lived as Idlers in the State ; but we are apprehensive it will require more Rhetoric than we are possessed of, to induce the young Nobility of some other Countries, which might be named, to adopt so laudable a Pursuit. It will naturally be asked—Why have not the commercial People of this Kingdom profited of the late and present low

low Price of Corn, by purchasing it for Exportation ; for it certainly would have turned to a very beneficial Account, if even sent to America, to supply our Armies, &c. The Reason is evident,— The Spirit for Commerce is so languid, and the Wealth of this Nation so contracted, that the trading Branch are not fired with that Ardency and enterprizing Passion for Speculation, which is the Life of great commercial Nations—from Poverty and the Subjection, which the lower Order of People are under to the higher ; this Country savors more of an aristocratical Government, than that of a free Nation.—Whilst this great Distinction, and want of due and regular Gradation subsists ; it will ever be a cramp, both to Genius and Emulation.— Happy would it be, were there a middle Order of People, or Yeomanry, amongst ye—The Peasantry would then, to a certain Degree, have an Intercourse with those, who although they might not polish their Minds, yet they would soften and

and mould them, so as to become a different Kind of Being to what they are in their present State of Ignorance and Dependence—In some remote Parts, the People are nearly in a State of Nature.

We shall mention one more Impediment to your becoming a great commercial Nation, which is the frequent Embargoes that are laid upon your Exports — It causes your Trade to be so very precarious, and uncertain, that People are not fond (and indeed have little Encouragement) of embarking in an extensive Branch of Commerce, from the Apprehension of a sudden Detention of their loaded Ships, which at some critical Conjuncture might prove the Ruin of those Merchants who had not a great Capital — This Circumstance alone, will prove a Bar and Prevention to any great Extension of your Commerce — Trade which is cramped and under Restrictions, must ever be languid.

WE

We shall not enter into the Expedi-
ence, or Inexpediency of such Embargoes; because there may be political Reasons of State, which may occasion them to be necessary, ~~and~~ absolutely requisite; although it may be highly improper to assign or divulge such Reasons to the Public—From Humanity, we would scarcely conceive it probable, that they could proceed from any other Cause, because their destructive Tendency operates chiefly on the Poor—The late Embargo has made them poor indeed—and the Nation will feel the Effects of it for some Years; for their Necessities having obliged them to sell their Cattle below one half of the ordinary Price, they have not been in Ability to pay their Rents—this pervades and affects every Order of Men, and has been greatly instrumental to the Distress of the Times—

THE only Persons who have reaped
Advan-

Advantage from this Calamity are the Merchants who have purchased the Cattle of the Poor, at a low Rate, to slaughter upon Speculation—The Quays of your different Sea Ports have been crammed for many Months, waiting until the Embargo was taken off.

BUT independent of the before-mentioned Obstruction to your commercial Interest, the former Reason assigned of the Want of Money is so weighty, that it will not admit of a serious Contradiction; for all Authors who have ever written upon Trade and Commerce agree, that from the Peasant, to the East India Company, there is no Trade, no Art, no Fabrick, nor no Commerce can possibly be carried on without Money—The wanting that Article alone, is wanting every Thing, it being the principal Requisite, and as necessary to a State as the Heart is to the Body, to promote and cause a Circulation of the Blood, through

the different Arteries and Fibres, in order to keep it in Health and Vigor. These Reasons induce us to believe, that in the present State of your Nation, and of the British Empire in general, your Community would not derive those Advantages from a Liberty to extend your Commerce, which the Generality of People imagine *.

GENERAL CONCLUSION.

IT is very well know to many Persons of the first Distinction in this Kingdom, that your present excellent and honourable Chief Governor, since his Residence amongst ye, has omitted no Opportunity wherein he could give Conviction of his real Attachment to the true Interest of Ireland——He has made Use of every Means which could be devised (compatible

* Vide Addenda, for the State of your Specie.

ble with the necessary Expenditure which is indispensably requisite) to preserve a Frugality and Oeconomy in his Administration, for which every Lover of this Country ought to revere him. His Virtues, and Attention to your Prosperity and Welfare, will be more conspicuous, whenever you shall have the Misfortune to lose him; but in the mean Time, as no one can foresee how far the Necessities of the Mother Country may require your Exertions, in Order to afford her farther Assistance, for you cannot suffer her to fall a Sacrifice to the Ambition of her natural Enemy, when your own Security and Preservation depend upon the Success of her Arms—You should, therefore, as Individuals, pursue a frugal Oeconomy, in Order to be able to bear any additional Tax, which the Necessities of the State should require you to enact, for the Defence of this Country, and the British Empire in general.

You should give farther Encourage-

ment to the Fisheries on your Coasts, by which Means you will not only draw Riches from the Ocean, but will form a Nursery of Seamen for the Navy, and for the Defence of your Kingdom, upon any Emergency——Too much Attention cannot be shewn to an Object of such material Importance to your State.

You should to a Man become Antigalicans, and not add to the Riches of your perfidious Foe, by the Consumption of any Articles which are the Produce of France.

You should lay an heavy Duty on her Wines and Brandies in particular, as also on her Fabricks, so as nearly to reduce them to a Prohibition *.

You should take more effectual Means to prohibit the Use of Whiskey, and other

* The Sum which is sent out of Ireland, to pay for Wines and Brandies, is enormous.

other spirituous Liquors, which intoxicate and enervate the lower Order of People ; and acting like a slow Poison, in the End destroys more of your Inhabitants annually, than all the Disorders incident to the human Body——an wholesome Malt Liquor might be substituted in its Stead, which would increase Agriculture, and produce an equal Revenue to the State.

UNLESS some serious Attention is paid unto that particular Object, the Effects will become fatal to the Nation ; for whilst you may be looking up towards visionary Illusions, that infernal Malady is gaining Ground, and in Time will go near to sap the very Nerves of your State ; for it cannot but be obvious to every Individual, how destructive it must be to Population.

You should be careful and vigilant that the Poor were not affected by, or subject to

to, any additional Impost—they should rather be exonerated, and by new modelling the Hearth Tax, and laying an Addition on the Opulent, you should entirely free those miserable People from that Duty, who have but one Hearth.

SOME Means should be devised to relieve them from the intolerable Oppression and Exactions of those Blood-suckers, called, Tythe-Jobbers——it is inconceivable what the lower Order of People suffer from those unfeeling Monsters.

You should establish Schools, with proper Masters, in every large Town, for the Education of the Poor, of every Persuasion, indiscriminately——This should be supported by the Rich, and assisted by a Cess on each County—a trifling Sum of that Money which is uselessly squandered in Jobs, by your Grand Juries, would answer that End.——It would humanize the Minds of those who are now nearly Savages thro' Ignorance.

Scot-

SCOTLAND affords you an Example of the Utility it is to a Kingdom, to attend to the Education of the Poor——The meanest and most wretched Individual in that Country has an Education, which excites in him an Emulation and Propensity for bettering his Condition.——We wish to see it so here; but unless the rich Man will dispense with the sumptuous second Course at his Table, and in other Instances set an Example of Frugality and Oeconomy, by abolishing every Species of superfluous Luxury, we are afraid we shall never see that happy Day.

You should give a certain Stipend to the Apothecary in every Town, to attend every Being of the human Race, who should stand in Need of Advice, or Medicines, within a stated Distance.

You should lay an heavy Tax on Absentees, who drain this Country of its Vitals, in Order to enrich other Nations; and

and who are the principal Instrument of keeping it in a State of Ignorance and Beggary—Look at the large Tracts of Land in this Kingdom belonging to that Class of People, and you will behold a lamentable Picture of the Effects of their Non-residence—a temporary Plague, or Famine, could not produce more pernicious and fatal Consequences unto you than they do; for, independent of the Property they draw from the Country, they are principally conducive to keeping it in a State of Ignorance and Dependence —But if such Tax should be judged necessary and prudent, it should be full and impartial,—on Absentees of every Denomination, without Reserve or Exception; for a Power of dispensing any Individuals who hold high Offices, or have great Employments, would be a flagrant Injustice towards the remaining Part.— It would create Jealousies, and counteract the very Intent of such a Law.

You

You should search into the real Cause of the Risings, and apparent Dissatisfaction of Part of your Inhabitants, and into the Motives which can induce them to commit Acts of Barbarity, not to be equalled in the most savage Countries on Earth. And if those Acts should proceed from insupportable Oppression and Tyranny, you should endeavour to remove the Cause, and the Malady in course will cease.

As before observed, give them Education, and pay some Attention to their Morals, and their Minds will shudder at the Thoughts of such Cruelties as they at present commit, without the least Remorse or Feeling.

THE arbitrary Cess of your Grand Juries, is a lamentable Grievance to your Country, and falls heavier on the Poor, than any Tax imposed upon them by Government——This Cess might be

admissible as far as relates to Presentments for public Roads and Bridges—but in other Instances, such as levying a partial Cess on a particular Body of People, under the Denomination of Papists and Rapparees, it is the most flagrant Tyranny—Taxes should be levied on the whole Body of the People indiscriminately—It is an Imperium in Imperio, that we should expect only to see adopted and practised in the most despotic Monarchies.

AN Algerine Legislature would be ashamed of such a Law.

No Nation can be called a Country of Freedom, where such a Power is authorized and allowed.

THE ACT should be enforced which stipulates, that a certain Proportion of the grazing Farms should be under Tillage—There are some Counties in this Kingdom almost uninhabited, from a Relaxa-

**Relaxation, or rather an Inattention to
that Law *.**

BUT after having presumed to give an Opinion respecting this Country, it appears to us, that unless a Remedy is applied to heal one particular Sore, every Advantage which might be devised, or granted for its Benefit, would prove inefficacious—We mean, that the Lands should be lowered to so just and equitable a Standard, that the Poor may live in Comfort, and that the Value of Land and the Price of Labour may be so justly proportioned, and go Hand in Hand together, that it shall produce no Reason for Dissatisfaction unto the meanest amongst the lower Order of People.

It may be said that the Lands have
G 2 greatly

* Anno 1634, Sir Anthony Roper was fined 4000l. in England, for converting arable Land into Pasture, contrary to a Law made in the Reign of Henry the 7th. Many others were fined, and many compounded, at that Time, for the same Offence.

greatly fallen ; but allow us to ask, What has caused them to fall ? Has it proceeded from Motives of generous Liberality ? We will answer it—No—but from a forced Necessity, proceeding from a Cause diametrically opposite to humane Principles.—

We shall beg Leave to conclude, by asking a few Questions.

WHAT was it occasioned the Hearts of Steel to rise ?

WHAT has been the Occasion, that the White Boys have so often been in Arms, and are every Week in Arms to this Hour ?

WHAT can be the Cause, which could excite People to the savage Practice of houghing Cattle ?—

THE Person who will ingenuously, and impartially, answer those Questions, will be the true Friend to Ireland.

If

IF the foregoing cursory Observations, shall in the least Shape tend to the Advantage of the Community, the Writer will deem himself amply rewarded for the Time he has bestowed upon a Subject of such Magnitude—Conscious of his Inability, it is with great Reluctance that he has been prevailed upon to make them public—he therefore hopes, even those who shall differ in Opinion with him, on any Particular, will allow, that the Motives which induced him to take his Pen in Hand could only proceed from Humanity, and the Welfare of this Kingdom.

ADDENDA.

A D D E N D A.

MATERIALS, which will enable the Reader to form a Sort of Comparison betwixt England and Ireland.

ENGLAND and WALES contain,
Statute Acres, about **30,000,000**

Inhabitants - - - - **6,000,000**

IRE-

IRELAND contains,

	Plantation Acres.	Stat. Acres.
About	11,927,864,	or 17,927,864
Call it 18 Millions, and the Proportion		
it bears to England and Wales, is as 18		
is to 30.		

Inhabitants.

By a late Account.

	Protestants.	Papists.
Ulster - - -	377,978	278,607
Leinster - - -	197,670	553,413
Munster - - -	77,915	495,164
Connaught - - -	28,522	344,294
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	662,085	1,671,478
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Inhabitants,		2,333,563
		ENG-

ENGLAND and WALES continued.

Current Specie £. 17,000,000

Annual Home Consumption of Grain,
(the mean Quantity for 20 Years.)

Quarters.

Wheat,	-	-	3,840,000
Oats,	-	-	4,252,725
Barley,	-	-	4,333,125
Rye,	-	-	1,030,000

Annually for Exportation, (mean Quan-
tity for 20 Years.)

Quarters.

Wheat,	-	-	0,336,123
Oats,	-	-	0,003,457
Barley,	-	-	0,219,565
Rye,	-	-	0,052,370

Cash received for Corn exported from
the first Year of giving the Bounty, Anno
1689, to 1765 l. s. d.

£. 36,901,332 19 5 f.

Bounty paid by Government upon Corn
exported, during that Term,

£. 6,616,432 19 5 f.

IRE-

IRELAND continued.

Your current Specie is estimated at about - - - - £. 3,000,000 Deduct from this the annual Drain by your Absentee Landlords, Absentee Pensioners, Absentee Placemen, and the Sums paid for your luxurious, and necessary Imports, and you will wonder how your Establishment is supported. Was your Linen Manufacture to be lost, the Wheels of Government could not revolve, if assisted by the Efforts and Oeconomy of the most able and virtuous Chief Governor on Earth.——Thus circumstanced, you cannot be surprised at any Increase of your national Debt; but it would be illiberal, and ungenerous, to impute it to any Error or Prodigality in your present Administration, during which no Pension has been granted, nor Place formed.

H

Stat.

(50)

ENGLAND and WALES continued.

Bounties paid on Exportation.

Per Quarter.

5s. od. per Quarter on Wheat,	l. s. d.
when at a lower Price than	2 8 0
2s. 6s. ditto Barley and Malt,	
when under	1 4 0
3s. 6d. Rye, when under	1 12 0
2s. 6s. Oats, (given in 1706)	
when under	0 15 0

Anno 1726, three Pence per Quarter was allowed by Parliament, to such as made Malt for Exportation.

The

IRELAND continued.

Stat. 13 Geo. 3d. From the 24th of June 1774. When the Price of Wheat doth not exceed one Shilling English the Stone—The Price of midling Rye, Pease or Beans, doth not exceed 25s. English the Quarter—The Price of midling Oats nine Shilling English the Quarter; the following Bounties will be paid upon Exportation:

For every Quarter of Wheat, ground Wheat, Meal or Wheat Flour, 3s. 2d. English.

For every Quarter of Rye, Peas or Beans, ground or unground, 2s. 4d.

For Every Quarter of Oats, ground or unground, - - - 1s. 3d.

The half Quarter, or four Bushels of Wheat, Rye, Pease, Beans, Meal, and Flour made of Wheat, or Rye, so to be exported, shall contain, and be equivalent to 224 Pounds Weight.

ENGLAND and WALES continued.

to day's performance in Ossianic
music in said Land, and in particular
in the traditional forms of music
and melody in said Land.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

John C. H. Smith

The great Abuses made in malting Corn for Exportation, by the Increase, or swelling of it, (it sometimes being 8 or 10 Times more in Measure than the original Barley) caused an Act to pass in 1730, ordering, that for every 20 Quarters of Barley, only 30 Quarters of Malt should be allowed in Measurement. This Abuse

IRELAND continued.

This Act expires the 24th of June, 1779.—It is to be hoped, at the Meeting of Parliament, that in Order to further encourage Agriculture, Corn will be allowed to be exported when it is at rather an higher Price, and that some little Addition may be made to the Bounties. In the Course of a few Years, this Country would, in Consequence thereof, wear a different Complexion, although it should even cause the other Necessaries of Life to be dearer, because it would produce a Circulation of Specie amongst the lower Order of People.

This shews the Vigilance which is requisite in a State, to correct any Abuses which may be practised in Bounties, and that Ireland should have a watchful Eye.

—Quere, When Corn is at a very low Price, may it not be well worth While to purchase it in the Capital, the Land Carriage Bounty having been paid upon it,

ENGLAND and WALES continued.

Abuse was carried so far, that Ships were accustomed to load Malt on the eastern Coast of England, and after having sailed a few Hours, it was cast into the Sea, by which a Profit was made of Cent. per Cent. on the original Barley.—It is computed that 1,260,320 Quarters of Malt was lost by this diabolical Practice.

Land under Tillage annually.

	Acres.
For Home Consumption,	3,087,170
For Exportation, -	0,149,583
Total under Tillage,	3,238,753

By this we find, that more than one tenth of the Lands of England and Wales are under Tillage, for the Consumption of their Inhabitants, and that the Proportion of Land employed to produce Corn for Exportation, is nearly

as

IRELAND continued.

it, and ship it to distant northern or southern Ports, there to be landed, and sent again by Land Carriage to Dublin, and receive a second Bounty ; and so on, ad infinitum, until the Price of Corn shall be considerably advanced above the original Purchase ? Has this never been practised ? Does it come within the Spirit and Intent of the Act ?

We cannot ascertain the Land under Tillage in Ireland.

We

ENGLAND and WALES continued.,

as one to twenty, of that which is cultivated for their own Use.

It should be observed, that the Inhabitants of those Kingdoms all eat Bread, and that their annual Consumption of that Article alone, amounts to more than six Times the Value of the current Specie of Ireland; for at the moderate Computation of £. 3 0 0 per Head, (some Authors calculate it at £. 3 10 0) the Value will appear to be 18 Millions sterl. per Annum for Bread only.

IRELAND continued.

We may venture to assert, that not one fifth Part of the Inhabitants of Ireland eat Bread, therefore she is less liable to be affected by a Scarcity of Corn.— This is a forcible Reason for the Encouragement of Agriculture, and for her Exportation of Grain, because the Redundancy of Corn would feed her Inhabitants if her Potatoes should fail, and prevent a Famine.— Her Corn might become as staple a Commodity as her Linen ; with this Advantage in Favour of the former, that it would preserve the Lives of her Inhabitants, in Case of any unforeseen Dearth, which the latter would not ; for there is no Man but would give a Piece of fine Linen for a Peck Loaf, when Nature called for Support.— Corn might operate with Respect to Ireland, just as Wines do with

I France,

ENGLAND and WALES continued.

The 17 Millions of Specie in those Kingdoms, is all circulating amongst the aggregate Body. —— It is computed, that the Yeomanry, Manufacturers, Tradesmen, and the commercial Branch, are in Possession of two Thirds of said Sum.

What

IRELAND continued.

France, Spain, Portugal, &c. The Inhabitants of those Countries drink but little of it, and by Exportation, consequently, draw immense Revenues from other Nations, Ireland not to be forgotten of the Number.—Give them Corn for their Wine, if you must drink it, and you will be upon a Par with them.

The 3 Millions of Specie which is computed to be in Ireland, has not a general Circulation amongst the aggregate Body.

The lower Order of People, who are by far the greater Proportion, see little of it (except those employed in the Linen Manufacture) and what they do see can

I 2 operate

ENGLAND and WALES continued.

What we mean to imply is, that if the Circulation was to stop, it would be found amongst them.—We need not be astonished at the Power and

Grandeur

IRELAND continued.

operate but little to the general Advantage of the Kingdom ; for it is received in one Hand, and paid by the other, either to the Agents of Absentees who send it to England, or to others of the Community, who pay the greater Part of it for luxurious and necessary Imports, which Money is likewise sent out of the Kingdom.

With Respect to her internal Polity, we must leave it to those of superior Abilities to comment upon.

We only wish that her Natives may view it through the same Medium that a Stranger doth.

We shall take our Leave of the Subject, by observing, that a Nation should correct the Abuses and Defects in her Legislation,

ENGLAND and WALES continued.

Grandeur of a Kingdom under such Circumstances, whose internal Polity has but few Defects.

IRELAND continued.

Legislation, before she becomes opulent.—When that is established upon a Basis of impartial Justice, Equity, and Humanity, every Extention of Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce, will have a salutary Effect ; because no individual of the Community will find Reason for Complaint——but, should a Nation, perchance, become wealthy, without correcting such Abuses and Defects, the People will only be sharpening the Swords, which are to cut their own Throats.

F I N I S.

Photo.

E I N I E